

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Please amend the Claims as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.**

1 (original): A method for producing activated carbon for an electric double layer capacitor electrode characterized in that the method comprises:

an activation step of obtaining an activated carbon by mixing a raw carbon material for activated carbon with an alkali metal hydroxide, and heating the mixture in an inert gas atmosphere;

a deactivation and removal step of deactivating and removing alkali metal contained in the activated carbon; and

a heat treatment step of heating the activated carbon passed through the deactivation and removal step to a temperature higher than 400°C and not higher than the heating temperature in the activation step, in an inert gas atmosphere.

2 (previously presented): A method for producing activated carbon for an electric double layer capacitor electrode characterized in that the method comprises:

an activation step of obtaining an activated carbon by mixing a raw carbon material for activated carbon with an alkali metal hydroxide, and heating the mixture in an inert gas atmosphere;

a deactivation and removal step of deactivating and removing alkali metal contained in the activated carbon; and

a heat treatment step of heating the activated carbon passed through the deactivation and removal step to a temperature higher than 400°C and lower than 750°C, in an inert gas atmosphere.

3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal is deactivated in the deactivation and removal step by reacting the alkali metal with carbon dioxide gas at 200°C or higher, and/or by washing the activated carbon with water.

4 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is potassium hydroxide.

5 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the raw carbon material for activated carbon is graphitizable carbon.

6 (original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the graphitizable carbon is petroleum coke.

7 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the heating temperature in the activation step is set at a temperature higher than 600°C and lower than 800°C.

8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising a water washing step of washing the activated carbon passed through the heat treatment step with water.

9 (previously presented): Activated carbon for an electric double layer capacitor electrode produced by the method according to claim 1.

10 (currently amended): Activated The activated carbon for an electric double layer capacitor electrode according to claim 9, wherein

the activated carbon having have an alkali metal content of less than 100 mass ppm.

11 (original): Activated carbon for an electric double layer capacitor electrode, having an alkali metal content of less than 100 mass ppm, said activated carbon being produced by the method according to claim 8.

12 -16 (cancelled)

17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 2, wherein the alkali metal is deactivated in the deactivation and removal step by reacting the alkali metal with carbon dioxide gas at 200°C or higher, and/or by washing the activated carbon with water.

18 (previously presented): The method according to claim 2, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is potassium hydroxide.

19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 2, wherein the raw carbon material for activated carbon is graphitizable carbon.

20 (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the graphitizable carbon is petroleum coke.

21 (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the heating temperature in the activation step is set at a temperature higher than 600°C and lower than 800°C.

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22 (previously presented): The method according to claim 2, further comprising a water washing step of washing the activated carbon passed through the heat treatment step with water.

23 (previously presented): Activated carbon for an electric double layer capacitor electrode produced by the method according to claim 2.

24 (previously presented): Activated carbon for an electric double layer capacitor electrode, having an alkali metal content of less than 100 mass ppm, said activated carbon being produced by the method according to claim 22.

25 (previously presented): An electric double layer capacitor having a pair of electrodes and an electrolytic solution, characterized in that at least one of the pair of the electrodes includes the activated carbon according to claim 23.

26 (previously presented): An electric double layer capacitor having a pair of electrodes and an electrolytic solution, characterized in that at least one of the pair of the electrodes includes the activated carbon according to claim 10.

27- 28 (canceled)